# JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

March 3, 2009



### **MISCLASSIFICATION**

- July 2008 Governor appoints
   Misclassification Task Force
- Task Force Members:
  - Elisabeth Buck, IWD Director Chair
  - Dave Neil, Labor Commissioner
  - Mark Schuling, IDR Director
  - Thom Hart, IDED
  - Jim Larew, Governor's Counsel



#### Not a Victimless Crime . . .

#### Who is affected:

- Workers: immediate and long-term problems (loss of UI, WC, own Social Security tax, health insurance, other benefits)
- Compliant Employers: uneven playing field
- Public: non-enforcement of labor standards, loss of taxes, cost shifting
- Insurers: workers comp fraud
- Other unaccounted social costs



## Misclassification Recommendations

- Budgetary Commitment to Enhanced Enforcement
  - Enforce Existing Statutes
  - Dedicated Enforcement Staff
    - 9 FTE's
    - 2010 Budget of \$771,153
    - Budget includes supplies, travel, salaries
  - Additional Tax Revenues may result from dedicated enforcement



### **Misclassification Team**

- Multi-disciplinary Investigative Team
  - UI Expertise
  - Contractors
  - Workers Compensation
  - Revenue
  - Wage & Hour



## Misclassification Recommendations

- Critical Public Education,
   Communication and Employee
   Training
  - Develop Educational Materials
  - Develop Outreach Efforts
    - Hotline
    - Web Site



## Questionable Employment Tax Practices (QETP) Agreement

This agreement with IRS gives IWD access to IRS data, which includes:

- 1099 Miscellaneous data tells us who and how many contractors worked for each business plus the amount of the contract
  - Useful for audit leads/deciding who to audit
- "Real time" audit data gives access to details while audit is underway and audit findings
- SS-8 determinations tells us who IRS classified as employees/contractors. We can use information for our own investigation.

## Misclassification Recommendations

- No Statutory Definition Changes
  - Retain "Common Law" definition for at least one more enforcement year
    - Services shall be deemed to be employment unless the individual is free from direction and control over the performance of services
    - Burden of proof on party asserting independent contractor status
  - One year of enhanced enforcement will help to identify any changes in the definition that may be required WORKFORCE

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## Action on Misclassification Recommendations

- No legislative policy action necessary at this time
- \$771,153 fiscal request
  - Included in the Governor's 2010 budget request



#### Real Life Stories - #1

#### Flooring Installation Company

- Employer considered workers contractors
- Audit showed 14 contractors were employees
- Audit took 40 hours
- Employer failed to report over \$145,000 in wages or pay over \$1,200 in taxes



### Real Life Stories - #4

#### **Dry Wall Construction**

- 4 workers determined to be employees
- Over \$25,000 in wages unreported
- Paid \$2,000 in additional taxes
- 42 hours to complete audit



### Z'EWOL

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Elisabeth Buck, Director

Renée Miller, Bureau Chief-Field Operations

lowa Workforce Development



### FY 2009 Goals - Iowa's NCRC

- 200 Companies in the Business Consortium
- 3,000 Individuals Assessed

#### Where we are today

- 165 Companies in Iowa's Business
   Consortium
- 2,520 Individuals Assessed





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